

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 HA-05 /125 W
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P 290243Z APR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1056
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01726

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: APRIL 28 CONTACT GROUP MEETING WITH
SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF AFRICAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS

1. SUMMARY: CONTACT GROUP PERMREPS MET WITH SENIOR REPS
OF A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INDIA, AND GUYANA MORN-
ING APRIL 28 FOR A DISCUSSION OF CURRENT STATUS OF
WESTERN FIVE'S NAMIBIA INITIATIVE. IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS ABOUT NATURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF
THE FIVE'S SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL, GROUP EXPLAINED THAT IT
WAS WITHOUT QUALIFICATIONS; THERE COULD BE NO CHANGE IN
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THE PROPOSAL AT THIS STAGE. ON WALVIS BAY, PERMREPS SAID
THEIR GOVERNMENTS WERE PREPARED TO MAKE STATEMENTS ON
ITS FUTURE ONLY IF SWAPO ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL. US
SAID SITUATION IN NAMIBIA WAS DETERIORATING AND THAT
FIVE'S PROPOSAL OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE LOST IF NOT IMPLEMENTED
QUICKLY. MEETING WAS CONSTRUCTIVE, BUT IT REMAINS

UNCERTAIN WHETHER AFRICANS WILL BE WILLING TO INCREASE
PRESSURE ON SWAPO. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CONTACT GROUP MET MORNING APRIL 28 WITH A NUMBER
OF SENIOR REPS OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND OTHERS TO
DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF WESTERN INITIATIVE ON NAMIBIA
AND WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO BRING ABOUT SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE
OF OUR PROPOSAL. THE FIVE WERE REPRESENTED AT THE
PERMREP LEVEL. OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISOR OLGA LIMA OF ANGOLA, AMB TLOU OF BOTSWANA,
FOREIGN MINISTER JACKSON OF GUYANA, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS VAJPAYEE AND AMB JAIPAL OF INDIA, FOREIGN
MINISTER AKE AND AMB THIEMELE OF IVORY COAST, FOREIGN
MINISTER WAIYAKI AND AMB MAINA OF KENYA, FOREIGN
MINISTER DENNIS AND AMB THOMAS OF LIBERIA, AMB RAMPHUL OF
MAURITIUS, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER/CENTRAL BANK CHAIRMAN
VIEIRA AND AMB LOBO OF MOZAMBIQUE, AMB HARRIMAN OF
NIGERIA, AMB KONIE OF ZAMBIA, AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY
GENERAL RAMPHUL. (FOREIGN MINISTERS MWALE OF ZAMBIA
AND MKAPA OF TANZANIA WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND. COMMISSIONER
GARBA OF NIGERIA HAD ALREADY LEFT TOWN.)

3. AFTER AMB YOUNG WELCOMED THE GROUP, AMB MCHENRY
EXPLAINED THAT FOR BOTH SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA EMOTIONAL
AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE INVOLVED IN A
NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IN THE WAKE OF
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THE SAG ACCEPTANCE SWAPO NOW HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN
ACCEPTING WHAT WE REGARD AS A FAIR SETTLEMENT OR BLOOD-
SHED. BY ITS ACCEPTANCE, THE SAG HAD "STOLEN THE
HIGH GROUND." IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT
THEY HAD NOT MADE CONCESSIONS. BY CONTRAST, THE PAPER
SWAPO PRESIDENT JUJOMA HAD GIVEN SECRETARY VANCE APRIL
27 APPEARED TO RAISE ANEW ALL THE ISSUES DISCUSSED IN
NEW YORK IN FEBRUARY. MCHENRY THEN SUMMARIZED THE
RESULTS OF THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY.

4. KONIE OF ZAMBIA AND VIEIRA OF MOZAMBIQUE QUESTIONED
WHETHER THE SAG'S ACCEPTANCE WAS NOT, IN FACT,
"QUALIFIED" AS A RESULT OF VORSTER'S EXPLANATION IN
PARLIAMENT. MCHENRY REPLIED THAT THE ACCEPTANCE
HAD NOT BEEN QUALIFIED AND THAT WE SHOULD REGARD
VORSTER'S STATEMENT AS BEING DIRECTED TO HIS DOMESTIC
AUDIENCE. DEPUTY PERMREP LAPOINTE OF CANADA POINTED
OUT THAT VORSTER HAD NOT SUGGESTED ANY CHANGES IN THE
PROPOSAL ITSELF AND THAT ALTHOUGH THE FIVE WERE READY
AGAIN TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITION, AS THEY HAD IN THE FRG
SPEECH APRIL 26, THERE COULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE PRO-
POSAL AT THIS STAGE. AMB YOUNG EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD

TAKEN THE PROPOSAL AS FAR AS WE THOUGHT WE COULD AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO GO BACK TO THE PARTIES. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD TAKE IT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND IMPLEMENT IT.

5. GREATER PART OF THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON WALVIS BAY, VIEWED BY THE AFRICANS AS THE MAIN IMPEDIMENT TO SECURING SWAPO'S AGREEMENT. THE AFRICANS WANTED TO KNOW IF THE US (AND THE OTHER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS) WERE PREPARED TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE ENCLAVE, AND IF SO, WHEN. MCHENRY SAID THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DO SO AS

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P 290243Z APR 78

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1057

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01726

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

SOON AS SWAPO AGREED TO OUR PROPOSAL. IF NECESSARY, THE ANNOUNCEMENTS COULD EVEN BE SIMULTANEOUS. MCHENRY EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD INFORMED NUJOMA OF THIS AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO LAGOS. AMB HARRIMAN OF NIGERIA SAID NUJOMA SEEMED TO HAVE IMPRESSION US HAD PROMISED A MORE CATEGORICAL STATEMENT THAN IT NOW SEEMED PREPARED TO MAKE. MCHENRY REPLIED THAT WE

HAD, IN FACT, GIVEN NUJOMA A COPY OF THE STATEMENT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE.

6. DURING COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, UK, FRG, FRENCH, AND CANADIANS INDICATED WILLINGNESS OF THEIR GOVERN-
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MENTS TO MAKE A STATEMENT PATTERNED ALONG LINES OF THAT PROPOSED BY US. THE FIVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY COULD GO NO FURTHER (E.G. DECLARING WALVIS BAY TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA) BECAUSE OF THE HISTORICAL AND JURIDICAL BACKGROUND OF WALVIS BAY. AS TO AFRICAN FEARS THAT THE SAG MIGHT USE WALVIS BAY TO BLACKMAIL OR THREATEN AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA, THE FIVE REPLIED THAT ONCE NAMIBIA GAINS ITS INDEPENDENCE THE SITUATION WOULD BE DIFFERENT, AND SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH FOR REASONS OF PRIDE AND DOMESTIC POLITICS FEELS IT MUST NOW REASSERT ITS CLAIMS TO THE TERRITORY, MAY WELL BE WILLING TO LOOK AT THE ISSUE IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT. LEPRETTE OF FRANCE ADDED THAT IN ANY EVENT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD BE ABLE TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA THAN IS NOW THE CASE.

7. TO A QUESTION FROM VIEIRA WHETHER THE FIVE WOULD BE PREPARED NOT TO VOTE AGAINST A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WALVIS BAY AS PART OF NAMIBIA, MCHENRY REPLIED THAT WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER, BUT IF THIS MEANT EXTENDING THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S POWERS TO WALVIS BAY THEN THE ANSWER WAS NO.

8. MCHENRY SAID THAT THE US HAD NO INTENTION OF DROPPING THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE. HOWEVER, WHILE WE WANT TO RESOLVE THE ENTIRE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM, WE SHOULD NOT HOLD UP A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THE GREATEST PART OF THE PROBLEM OVER WALVIS BAY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SITUATION INSIDE NAMIBIA IS DETERIORATING AND THE NEED FOR ACTION ON THE FIVE'S PROPOSAL IS URGENT. HE STRESSED THAT WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO EFFECT A SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA FOR A LONG TIME--AND THEN ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE BLOODSHED.
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9. COMMENT: MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE THROUGHOUT, WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOWING A STRONG WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS

USEFUL FOR ALL ATTENDING, ALTHOUGH ULTIMATE SUCCESS,
IN TERMS OF ENCOURAGING AFRICANS TO BRING INCREASED
PRESSURE TO BEAR ON SWAPO, REMAINS UNCERTAIN. YOUNG

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